

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH

and

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1966



C. A. HARVEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Biggleswade Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the Biggleswade Rural District for 1966.

The vital statistics for the year are most satisfactory as the death rate and the infant mortality rate are both considerably below the respective rates for England and Wales. As in past years heart and circulatory disease and cancer are again the main causes of death the number being 218 out of a total of 362 deaths in the district.

Measles was again prevalent and 218 cases were notified, while there were also 14 cases of Scarlet Fever. There was no marked incidence of Whooping Cough.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their consideration and the Members of the Staff, particularly Mr. Pridmore, for their help and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARVEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	50,827
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1966	32,200
Number of inhabited houses	9,204
Rateable value as at 31st December, 1966	£823,928
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,345

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for its market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over twenty-five scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford and Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets.

The area is very prosperous and employment is plentiful.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	335	316	651
Illegitimate	13	9	22
Total	348	325	673

Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population ..	20.9
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population ..	21.7
Birth rate for England and Wales	17.7

Still Births

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	5.9
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.4

Deaths

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	190	172	362
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			11.2
Area comparability Factor			0.88
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population ..			9.9
Death rate for England and Wales			11.7

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality ..	1
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Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Total	5	5	10
	—	—	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births			14.9
Rate for England and Wales			19.0
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			12.9
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			11.1
Peri-natal Mortality rate Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			26.3

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1957-1966

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales
1957	9.4	11.5	16.7	16.1	22.2	23.0
1958	9.7	11.7	16.7	16.9	23.8	22.5
1959	9.6	11.6	15.5	16.5	9.4	22.0
1960	10.7	11.5	17.1	17.1	13.8	21.7
1961	10.2	12.0	19.4	17.4	6.0	21.4
1962	9.5	11.9	19.8	18.0	12.6	21.4
1963	10.8	12.2	18.9	18.2	20.0	20.9
1964	9.9	11.3	18.6	18.4	12.7	20.0
1965	10.8	11.5	22.6	18.1	19.3	19.0
1966	9.9	11.7	21.7	17.7	14.9	19.0

CAUSES OF DEATH—1966

Causes	Under 15 years		15-64		65 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	—	—	2	—	2	3	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs							
Bronchus	—	—	5	1	11	—	17
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	—	—	4	—	5	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	—	—	6	6	7	4	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	—	2	5	13	26	46
18. Coronary disease, angina	—	—	11	2	20	22	55
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	—	—	—	1	3	8	12
20. Other heart disease	—	—	1	1	14	17	33
21. Other circulatory disease	—	1	3	—	3	2	9
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	—	—	2	2	11	24	39
24. Bronchitis	—	—	3	1	15	3	22
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	1	—	3	1	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4	3	5	18	14	48
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
34. All other accidents	1	—	3	—	3	2	9
35. Suicide	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Totals	6	5	50	31	134	136	362

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
North Herts. & Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Geriatric Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Clapham Hospital, near Bedford.
Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade.

Maternity Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
North Herts. (East Wing) Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Infectious Disease Hospital

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton.

Psychiatric Hospital

Fairfield Hospital, Arlesey.

Mentally Sub-normal

Bromham Hospital, near Bedford.

Chest Clinic (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Venereal Disease Clinic

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.

Miniature Radiography

Biggleswade (The Lawns). Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.

Physiotherapy Clinic

Biggleswade. (Civil Defence Centre). Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council Ambulance Service

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel

by other means to and from Hospitals and clinics when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:

Biggleswade (Chestnut Avenue). Tel.: Biggleswade 2295/2287

Bedford (Bedford Road, Kempston). Tel.: Kempston 59335.

Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

The nurses employed are:

<i>Name and Address of Nurse</i>	<i>District</i>
Mrs. E. O. Evans, 45 Western Way, Sandy. Telephone Sandy 588.	Blunham, Mogerhanger, Temsford, Sandy, Beeston, Seddington.
Miss P. Briggs, 6 Willsheres Road, Biggleswade. Telephone Biggleswade 2332.	Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth.
Miss F. Bishop, 11 Festival Road, Potton. Telephone Potton 234.	Cockayne, Hatley, Everton, Eyeworth, Potton, Sutton, Wrestlingworth.
Mrs. B. Blamire, 8 Coach Road, Henlow. Telephone Clifton 298.	Clifton, Henlow Village, Henlow R.A.F.
Miss D. M. Collie, 120 Ampthill Road, Shefford. Telephone Shefford 356.	Meppershall, Shefford, Campton, Chicksands, Upper Stondon, Haynes.
Mrs. E. M. Wyer, 62 Stratton Way, Biggleswade. Telephone Biggleswade 2028.	Langford, Old Warden, Southill—(Stanford, Broom, Ireland). Northill—(Ickwell, Lower Caldecote, Upper Caldecote, Thorncote, Hatch).
Mrs. E. M. Woodford, 14 High Street, Stotfold. Telephone Stotfold 604.	Astwick, Stotfold.
Mrs. Turner, Nurse's House, Chase Farm Road, Arlesey. Telephone Arlesey 362.	Arlesey.

Health Visiting Service

<i>Name and Address of Health Visitor</i>	<i>District</i>
Miss Cornwall, 4 Pope Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Hunts. Telephone St. Neots 2924.	Cockayne Hatley, Sutton, Potton, Everton, Ickwell, Wrestlingworth, Northill, Eyeworth.

Miss J. V. Hayward,
"Greystones,"
7 Savilles Close, St. Neots.

Biggleswade, Dunton,
Edworth.

Miss D. M. Towers,
13 Cedar Close, Ampthill.
Telephone Ampthill 3087

Southill, Campton, Clifton,
Henlow R.A.F. Three Star
Caravan Site, Meppershall,
Old Warden, Shefford,
Upper Stondon.

Mrs. E. P. Sambourne,
Ground Floor Flat,
47 Glebe Road, Sandy.

Mogerhanger, Blunham,
Tempsford, Sandy, Beeston,
Upper & Lower Caldecote.

Mrs. C. M. Adamson,
23 Northern Avenue,
R.A.F. Henlow.
Telephone Henlow 272.

Henlow Village, Arlesey,
Langford.

Mrs. S. M. Williams, (Part time) Sandy.
Mount Pleasant,
19 The Hill, Blunham.

Mrs. D. Whomes,
12 Burley, Letchworth, Herts.

Astwick, Stotfold.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council Child Welfare Clinics

Arlesey: Methodist Schoolroom. Friday afternoons weekly.
Biggleswade: "The Lawns Health Centre." Tuesday afternoons weekly.

Henlow Camp: Henlow R.A.F. Station. Thursday afternoons fortnightly. Immunisation, Thursday mornings, 4-Weekly.

Henlow Village: Parish Hall. Thursday mornings fortnightly.

Langford: Ivy Leaf Club Room. Monday afternoons fortnightly.

Potton: Church Hall. Wednesday afternoons fortnightly.

Shefford: Digswell House. Wednesday afternoons weekly.

Stotfold: Unionist Club. Monday afternoons weekly. Immunisation Monday morning, 4-Weekly.

Northill-Caldecote: Ickwell Club Room. Thursday afternoons 4-Weekly.

Clifton: Church Hall. Wednesday afternoons, fortnightly.

Home Help Service

Organizer: Mrs. V. Van Berckaler, Medical Centre, Union Street, Bedford. Telephone: Bedford 52207.

Dental Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Five mornings per week.

Speech Therapy Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Thursday afternoon weekly.

Shefford: Memorial Hall. Monday afternoon weekly.

Stotfold: Monday morning weekly.

Chiropody Service

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. By appointment.

5. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

It is now possible to protect persons against an increasing number of infections by the use of vaccines and toxoids. The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics and schools or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases dealt with.

6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Notification by Age Groups					
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Over 15	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	3	11	—	—	14
Measles	12	111	85	6	4	218
Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	3	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	2	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	2	2	2	6
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ..	—	—	—	2	10	12
Tuberculosis—Non-Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infective Hepatitis	Tuberculosis— Respiratory
Arlesey	5	17	1	—	—	1	—	2
Blunham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Clifton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dunton	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Everton	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Henlow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Henlow R.A.F.	1	75	—	1	—	—	—	—
Langford	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mogerhanger	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Northill	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Potton	2	7	1	1	—	—	3	1
Shefford	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2
Southill	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stotfold	6	15	1	—	—	—	—	2
Sutton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tempsford	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wrestlingworth	—	7	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	14	218	5	2	2	1	6	12

7. TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1957-1966.

Year	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1957	2	2	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	1
1958	7	2	—	1	10	1	1	—	1	3
1959	8	6	3	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
1960	4	5	3	—	12	2	—	—	—	2
1961	2	3	1	1	7	3	1	—	—	4
1962	9	3	1	1	14	3	—	1	—	4
1963	2	5	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	1
1964	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1
1965	3	4	—	1	8	—	—	—	1	1
1966	7	5	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	1

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

8. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Public Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Bedfordshire Water Board. It is pumped direct from the Greensand at works in Biggleswade, Dunton and Meppershall and is most satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Results of bacteriological examination of the raw water are not available, but samples are taken at regular intervals from various points in the distribution system by the Water Board.

The following are typical reports on samples taken weekly during 1966 for chemical examination. They indicate it is of a high standard of organic purity. It is not plumbo-solvent.

Chemical Analysis (in parts per million)

	Works at—			Dunton	Biggleswade	Meppershall
Turbidity	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction (pH)	..	..	..	7.2	7.2	7.3
Electric Conductivity ..	..	..	..	400	500	360
Ammonia—free and saline (as N)	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ammonia—albuminoid (as N)	..	..	..	Nil	Trace	Nil
Nitrogen in nitrates ..	..	..	..	Trace	Trace	Trace
Chlorine in Chlorides ..	..	..	..	18	19	13
Carbonate hardness ..	..	..	..	200	244	170
Non-Carbonate hardness ..	..	..	..	10	50	22
Total Hardness	..	..	..	210	294	192
Calcium as CaCO ₃ ..	..	..	..	194	255	160
Magnesium as CaCO ₃ ..	..	..	..	16	39	32
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 26.7°C	..	..	..	Nil	0.10	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide ..	..	..	..	20	25	15
				Less Than	Less Than	Less Than
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	0.04	0.04	0.04
Lead	..	..	..		None Found	
Zinc	..	..	..		None Found	
Copper	..	..	..		None Found	
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	11	10	7
Potassium as K	..	..	..	2	2	2
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..		None Found	
Fluoride as F	..	..	..	0.05	Less Than	0.15
					0.03	

In addition to the samples taken by the Water Board, your officers submit samples for bacteriological examination at The Public Health Laboratory at Bedford. During the year 15 such samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

A number of complaints about the discolouration of the water were received during June and August from residents in Arlesey, Stotfold and Langford.

These were referred to the Bedfordshire Water Board who took immediate action. In the first instance the difficulty was found to be due to a defect in the iron removal plant and in the second, to the fracture of the trunk main feeding Stotfold.

(b) Privately Owned Sources

It will be seen from column 5 of the following table that 27 isolated houses are without a mains supply of water and are dependent upon privately owned wells or boreholes for their supply. During the year 26 samples of water were taken from these sources with the following results:—

Satisfactory	..	..	21
Suspicious	..	..	3
Unsatisfactory	..	..	2

Where doubt exists as to the purity of the water, householders are advised to boil all water intended for drinking purposes, and efforts are made to secure an improvement in the supply. Two unsatisfactory wells were closed during the year.

(c) Distribution of Water

The following table shows the population supplied from public mains, the number of houses with a direct mains supply and the number having a private supply. Unfortunately up-to-date figures are not available and those shown are for 1961:—

PARISH	Estimated Population supplied from mains	Number of houses		
		With direct mains supply	Mains supply to standpipe	Dependent on other source
Arlesey	3060	1070	—	2
Astwick	38	12	—	—
Blunham	615	202	—	—
Campton	335	119	—	3
Chicksands ..	900*	124	—	2
Clifton	1330	479	—	—
Cockayne Hatley	106	36	—	—
Dunton	440	156	—	2
Edworth	50	25	—	—
Everton	220	96	—	—
Eyeworth	90	28	—	2
Henlow	3950*	872	—	—
Langford	1250	527	—	—
Meppershall ..	710	238	—	—
Mogerhanger ..	585	183	—	—
Northill	1450	512	—	4
Old Warden ..	430	105	—	7
Potton	2060	782	—	3
Shefford	2010	749	—	—
Southill	1075	343	—	2
Stotfold	5220	1319	—	—
Sutton	280	90	—	—
Tempsford ..	480	152	—	—
Upper Stondon	70	27	—	—
Wrestlingworth	385	138	—	—

*These figures include Service Personnel

(d) Drainage and Sewerage

(i) The disposal works at Arlesey and Stotfold are grossly overloaded and consideration has been given to the extension and modernisation of each of these works. During the year however, it was thought advisable to investigate the possibility of constructing an entirely new works in the parish of Langford with an outfall at the confluence of the Rivers Hiz and Ivel. Such works to deal with sewage not only from Arlesey and Stotfold, but also with some of the flow from Langford and Henlow in order to relieve the overloaded Five Parish Scheme.

The Consulting Engineers were instructed accordingly and their report is awaited.

(ii) Instructions were also given to the Consulting Engineers to investigate the possibility of extending the disposal works at Clifton in order to cope with the increased flow from the five parishes of Campton, Clifton, Henlow, Langford and Shefford.

(iii) The scheme for the parishes of Blunham, Mogerhanger and Tempsford was completed during the year and it came into operation in July.

(iv) Discussions with the Ministry were still in progress at the end of the year as to the type of disposal plant to be installed at Dunton. In the meantime, urgent road improvement work was being delayed pending the laying of a sewer and the Ministry granted permission for this work to proceed. Contract drawings and documents for this work were in the course of preparation at the end of the year.

(v) Work on the sewerage of part of Henlow, Meppershall and Upper Stondon is progressing. Sewage from these parishes will be treated at a disposal works at Shillington in the Ampthill Rural District and it is hoped the scheme will come into operation early in 1967.

(vi) In anticipation of the new disposal works at Biggleswade being completed, to which works sewage from Northill (including Ickwell and Upper Caldecote) will drain, pumps and control gear were installed at the pumping stations in the parish. Unfortunately however, there were further delays in the completion of the disposal works at Biggleswade and it was impossible to bring this scheme into operation. It is now anticipated the scheme will become operative early next year.

(vii) No progress has been made in connection with the proposed scheme for Old Warden. the reason being the failure of negotiations for the purchase of a suitable site for the disposal works. It is hoped however, that the solution of this problem will not long be delayed.

(viii) The scheme for new treatment works and the renewal of certain lengths of very old sewers in Potton has been delayed, mainly because the Great Ouse River Authority is of the opinion that there is insufficient flow of water in the water course into which it is proposed to discharge the effluent, to ensure satisfactory dilution.

In view of this an approach was made to Biggleswade Urban District Council as to the possibility of sewage from Potton being treated at their disposal works, but no decision had been reached by the end of the year.

In the meantime, because of the defective condition of certain of the older lengths of sewer, a serious rat infestation problem arose and in order to avoid delay in relaying the sewers which it was originally intended to do as part of the main contract, it was decided to instruct the Consultants to prepare separate contract documents for the relaying of the sewers and other ancilliary works.

(e) Night Soil Removal and Cesspool Emptying

The Council provide and maintain two 1,100 gallon capacity cesspool emptying vehicles each with a night soil attachment. Labour is by contract.

In parishes without main drainage facilities night soil is removed once per week from houses having up to 4 occupants and twice per week where there are more than 4 occupants. Cesspools are emptied at the rate of one per house per year free of charge, upon request. A more frequent service is provided as and when required and a charge is made for this additional service. There were 1,457 emptyings during the year as compared with 1,470 during 1965. 63 of these were in Biggleswade Urban District and the cost of this work was recovered from that Authority.

These free services were discontinued in the parishes of Campton and Everton during the year, each parish having been provided with main drainage facilities.

Disposal of nightsoil is by composting and the contents of cesspools are spread on waste land at Potton which the Council hire for the purpose. Occasionally, loads are spread on agricultural land with the agreement of the farmers concerned, but only when it is known the ground will be ploughed immediately after application.

(f) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is removed once per week throughout the area. The work is carried out by two contractors both of whom have discharged their duties in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

In my last report I referred to the very unsatisfactory 'skep' method of removal and expressed the view that the paper sack method of collection should be adopted as soon as possible. I am pleased to report that towards the end of the year the Council considered the matter and decided to operate two small pilot schemes on Council house estates in Arlesey and Potton as from 1st April, 1967, and to again review the matter at the end of 1967 with a view to extending the schemes.

In addition it was decided to instal paper sack holders on all future Council house estates and to ask private developers to make similar provision on all new estates of 20 or more houses. Refuse bins on existing Council house estates will be replaced with sack holders as and when necessary.

The method of disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit at Henlow. The refuse is covered daily with soil and during the summer months it is frequently sprayed as a precaution against flies and other pests. The Rodent Operator also carries out regular treatments for rat infestation.

One whole-time attendant is employed on the tip and he also operates the B85 front loader.

Biggleswade Urban District Council are likely to commence tipping their refuse at Henlow in the near future, and it is anticipated this tip will be completely filled during 1967, but I am pleased to report that after considerable difficulty two other suitable sites have been found. The one which will offer a short-term solution to the problem is a redundant length of the Ivel Navigation Channel in the parish of Southill. It is anticipated that by the time this is filled, excavation of sand will have taken place at Deepdale, Pottton, to such an extent as will enable refuse to be tipped there for many years to come.

Planning permission has been obtained in respect of each site.

Abandoned and derelict cars have again presented a problem during the year and much time has been spent in endeavouring to trace owners and securing the removal and disposal of the cars. No fewer than 19 vehicles were dealt with, 9 were disposed of by the owners and 10 by the Council.

(g) Inspection of the Area

Much has been achieved without recourse to statutory action but it has been necessary to serve notices under the Public Health Acts in respect of 4 buildings which were in a dangerous condition.

In 3 cases the owners concerned either demolished the buildings or made them safe without delay, but in one instance it was necessary to apply to the Court for an order requiring the owner to obviate the danger. An order was made requiring him to obviate the danger within 28 days and to pay costs amounting to £3 11s. 6d.

The following summary gives details of the visits and inspections made during the year:—

General Sanitation

Water Supply	44
Drainage	1,161
Watercourses	24
Piggeries	27
Scavenging	326
Abandoned and derelict cars.. .. .	36
Atmospheric pollution	19
Places of entertainment	7
Noise nuisances	3
Animal Boarding Establishments	13
Offices, shops and railway premises	163
Factories, workplaces and outworkers	96

Housing

Public Health Acts	418
Housing Act	247
Filthy or verminous premises	3
Overcrowding	5
Caravan dwellings	48
Cavanan sites	38
Improvement Grants	297
Rent Act	15

Infectious Disease etc.

Investigations	34
Immigrants re Health Service etc.	2

Meat: Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses	666
Butchers	119
Food preparation premises	31
Canteens	7
Restaurants	19
Grocers	151
Greengrocers	23
Mobile shops	16
Licensed premises	127

(h) Infestations

One case of infestation by lice has been dealt with during the year. The person concerned was visiting the area and she and her clothing and bedding were cleansed at the Cleansing Station at Bedford.

The Public Health Department in her town were informed.

(i) Rodent Control

One operator is employed by the Council and he is responsible for carrying out surveys and the treatment of infested premises. Disinfestation is carried out free of charge for occupants of domestic properties but a charge is made in respect of work undertaken at business premises.

Regular inspections and treatments are carried out at the Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works. The routine test baiting of sewers is also undertaken and where infestations are found, the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Type of property</i>	
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
(a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	220	4
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	212	4
(ii) Mice ..	8	—

Rodent Control—cont.

Type of Property
Non-
Agricultural Agricultural

(c) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification ..	134	—
(d) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	84	—
(ii) Mice ..	—	—

(j) Lodging Houses

There are no lodging houses in the district.

(k) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Routine inspections of premises under this Act were carried out during the year and a total of 163 visits were made.

The following table shows the numbers and types of premises registered and persons employed:—

<i>Type of premises</i>	<i>Number registered</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>
Offices	23	186
Retail shops	56	201
Wholesale shops, warehouses, etc. ..	5	49
Catering establishments, canteens ..	9	28
TOTALS	93	464

Quarterly returns of accidents occurring in premises covered by the Act are submitted to H.M. Factories Inspectorate but I am pleased to report that no accidents were reported in this area during the year.

The Sanitary Conveniences Regulations 1964 and the Washing Facilities Regulations 1964 came into operation during the year and routine inspections were carried out to secure compliance with the prescribed standards.

These measures involve re-visits to all registered premises and the survey was unable to be completed by the end of the year. Of the premises which were inspected, however, all the relevant provisions were complied with.

As yet, no Regulations have been made prescribing standards of lighting in rooms where people work, which tends to make the enforcement of the Act in this respect, apart from the more obvious cases, rather difficult.

Despite the wide publicity given to this Act on its inception, it is surprising to find quite a number of shopkeepers with people in their employ who are unaware that their premises require to be registered.

Minor contraventions involving the provisions of adequate first aid boxes, thermometers etc., were dealt with.

(a) Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses have continued to operate throughout the year, and a total of 24,298 animals were slaughtered as compared with 25,989 in the previous year.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966 which came into operation on 30th September, empowered Local Authorities to fix times at which slaughtering may take place in private slaughterhouses. After discussions with the owners concerned, it was agreed that as from 31st October, 1966, slaughtering be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays and that except for emergency purposes or the pressing needs of the market, no slaughtering takes place on Saturdays and Sundays.

(b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The following summary indicates the number of animals slaughtered and the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,587	190	4	8,298	13,219
Number inspected	2,587	190	4	8,298	13,219
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	2	2	78	84
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,627	160	—	397	3,402
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerci	62.96	82.26	50.00	5.72	26.37
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	296
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.12	—	—	—	2.24
CYSTICERCI:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed, was 24 tons 16 cwt. 2 qrs. 26lbs. In addition the following foods found to be unfit at other food premises were condemned and destroyed:—

955 tins miscellaneous foods. 344 packets of frozen foods.
18lbs. Imported Rabbits.

(c) Milk Supplies—*Brucella Abortus*

No samples of milk were taken for evidence of *Brucella Abortus*.

(d) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(e) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Details of food premises subject to these regulations are as follows:—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Number in district</i>
Grocers	66
Butchers	23
Bakers and confectioners	6
Fishmongers	5
Fruiterers and greengrocers	6
Hotels, cafes, restaurants and other catering establishments	12
Public Houses	81

All premises are fitted to comply with Regulation 16. There are 139 premises to which Regulation 19 applies. All are fitted to comply with this Regulation.

(f) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments within the district.

(g) Ice Cream

There are no premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of Ice Cream but there are 96 establishments registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream.

(h) Licences to Deal in Game

9 Licences to Deal in Game were issued in 1966.

10. HOUSING

(a) Housing Conditions

During 1966, 17 Demolition Orders and 19 Closing Orders were made. 27 dwellings were demolished and 1 dwelling in respect of which the Council accepted an undertaking to repair in 1965, was satisfactorily repaired and the undertaking cancelled.

In only 3 cases was it necessary to resort to statutory proceedings to secure the repair of dwellings.

63 houses and 26 bungalows were erected by the Council during the year. 24 tenancies were allocated to occupants of houses in respect of which demolition orders had been made.

158 dwellings were provided by private enterprise.

(b) Improvement Grants

78 Applications for Improvement Grants were received and approved during the year as compared with only 44 in the previous year. These may be summarised as follows:—

(i) Standard

Number of applications received and approved.

Owner/Occupiers	..	18
Tenanted	..	3

Total cost approved for grant purposes	..	..	£4,497	0	0
Average grant per house	..	..	£214	2	10

Amenities provided—

Fixed bath	..	..	..	..	20
Shower	..	..	..	..	1
Wash hand basin	..	..	..	..	21
Hot water supply	..	..	..	..	21
Water closet within dwelling	..	..	..	..	18
Food store	..	..	..	..	17

(ii) Discretionary

Number of applications received and approved.

Owner/Occupiers	..	14
Tenanted	..	33

Total cost approved for grant purposes	..	..	£14,737	0	0
Average grant per house	..	..	£313	10	10

(c) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

At the end of the year there were 106 caravans in the district on licensed sites.

No serious gipsy problem exists.

11. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Section 3(3) of the above Act requires any person proposing to install a furnace or boiler with a heating capacity greater than 55,000 BTU's per hour to give notice of their intention to the Council.

Two such notifications were received during the year for oil fired

boiler plant in the parishes of Arlesey and Stotfold and in both cases, approval was given.

12. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

There are 5 Animal Boarding Establishments in the area. 13 visits were made during the year and all premises were satisfactorily maintained.

13. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Two more dealers have been registered during the year thus bringing the total number of registered dealers to 35. As Itinerant dealers, 26 of these are exempted from the requirements of keeping certain records.

14. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Information in the form required by the Ministry of Labour is given as follows:—

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	96	87	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	101	96	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	8	—	6	—

3. Outwork (Section 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(I)(c).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel	15	—	—	—

